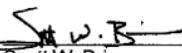


REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-23 are pending in the application. In the Office Action dated Oct. 26, 2006, the Examiner objected to claims 21-23 due to informalities. Further, claims 16 and 2-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,844,505 ("Ryzin") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,061,646 ("Martino") and U.S. Pat. No. 5,808,566 ("Behr"), and claims 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryzin in view of Martino, Behr, and U.S. Pat. No. 6,081,803 ("Ashby"). Finally, the Examiner indicated claims 1-5 and 7-15 were allowed.

In this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 16-23. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this Amendment, the Examiner is asked to phone the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott W. Brim
Registration No. 51,500
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200